

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0396

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: NEXT MEETING OF ATLANTIC POLICY ADVISORY GROUP (APAG)

REF: USNATO 226

SUMMARY: JANUARY 24 PSC DISCUSSION OF NEXT APAG MEETING RESULTED IN NEW SUGGESTIONS FOR TOPIC AND DATE. PORTUGAL AGREED TO SERVE AS HOST. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE ON SUBJECT AND DATE IN TIME FOR FEBRUARY 8 SPC MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. SUBJECT: DANISH REP RECEIVED NO SUPPORT AND DROPPED PROPOSAL FOR ENERGY TOPIC. BREAKOUT OF DISCUSSION ON OTHER TOPICS WAS AS FOLLOWS:

A. "THE PLACE OF JAPAN IN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ALLIANCE." FAVORED BY CANADA, FRANCE, ITALY, PORTUGAL AND U.S. THE U.S. REP BELIEVED THAT THIS WOULD BE A TIMELY AND INSTRUCTIVE SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION, WHICH HAD NOT BEEN THE SUBJECT OF CONSULTATIONS IN NATO, BUT HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD REPORT TO WASHINGTON ON OTHER PORPOSED TOPICS. FRENCH AND CANADIAN REPS CONSIDERED THAT MEDITERRANEAN TOPIC IMPINGED ON WORK OF OTHER NATO COMMITTEES.

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B. "SOVIET POLICIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND MIDDLE EAST AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ALLIANCE." SUGGESTED BY UK REP, WHO BELIEVED EXPERIENCE INDICATED THAT APAG DISCUSSIONS WERE MOST USEFUL WHICH FOCUSED ON ACTIVITIES OF ADVERSARIES. ITALIAN AND PORTU-

GUESE REPS SAID THAT WHILE THEY FAVORED JAPAN, THEY COULD ACCEPT UK SUGGESTION.

C. "PERSPECTIVES FOR DETENTE." SUGGESTED ON PERSONAL BASIS BY BELGIAN REP, AND SUPPORTED BY NORWEGIAN REP AND DUTCH REPS (WHO RECEIVED NO SUPPORT FOR HIS SUGGESTION FOR "SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SOVIET UNION AND IN WESTERN SOCIETY"). GREEK AND TURKISH REPS THOUGHT THAT UK AND BELGIAN SUGGESTIONS COULD BE COMBINED INTO A DISCUSSION OF IMPLICATIONS FOR DETENTE OF SOVIET POLICIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND MIDDLE EAST. U.S. REP BELIEVED THAT BELGIAN SUGGESTION WAS TOO BROAD AND ASKED BELGIAN REP TO SUGGEST A MORE SPECIFIC ASPECT OF THE QUESTION OF THE FUTURE OF DETENTE.

2. DATE. CHAIRMAN KASTL RECALLED THAT APAG USED TO MEET SEMI-ANNUALLY ALTHOUGH IT HAD MET ONLY ONCE IN 1972 AND ONCE IN 1973. HE SUGGESTED A JUNE MEETING, SINCE PREPARATIONS FOR THE NATO MINISTERIAL AND OTHER MEETINGS WOULD MAKE AN EARLIER MEETING DIFFICULT. DUTCH REP BELIEVED THAT SEPTEMBER WOULD BE A GOOD DATE, PARTICULARLY TO DISCUSS TOPIC SUGGESTED BY BELGIAN REP, SINCE ALLIES COULD THEN EVALUATE POST-CSCE PERSPECTIVES FOR DETENTE.

3. VENUE. PORTUGUESE REP REPORTED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD BE WILLING TO SERVE AS HOST FOR APAG MEETING IN APRIL. HE WOULD NEED TO CHECK ON OTHER SUGGESTED DATES.

4. COMMENT: QUESTION OF DATE RAISES FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE OF WHETHER ALLIES WISH TO FOLLOW THE TRADITIONAL PATTERN OF TWO APAG MEETINGS A YEAR, OR, AS WAS THE CASE IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, ONE MEETING PER YEAR. IF U.S. FAVORS TWO MEETINGS, WASHINGTON MIGHT WISH TO SUGGEST, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT APAG DISCUSS JAPAN IN THE SPRING AND POST-CSCE PERSPECTIVES FOR DETENTE IN THE FALL. IF U.S. FAVORS ONE MEETING, MISSION WILL NEED TO KNOW WHETHER WE PREFERE JUNE OR SEPTEMBER DATE. IT WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL TO KNOW WHETHER WE HAVE FLEXIBILITY IN ACCEPTING TOPICS OTHER THAN JAPAN. END COMMENT.
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